

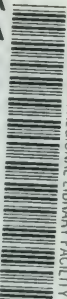
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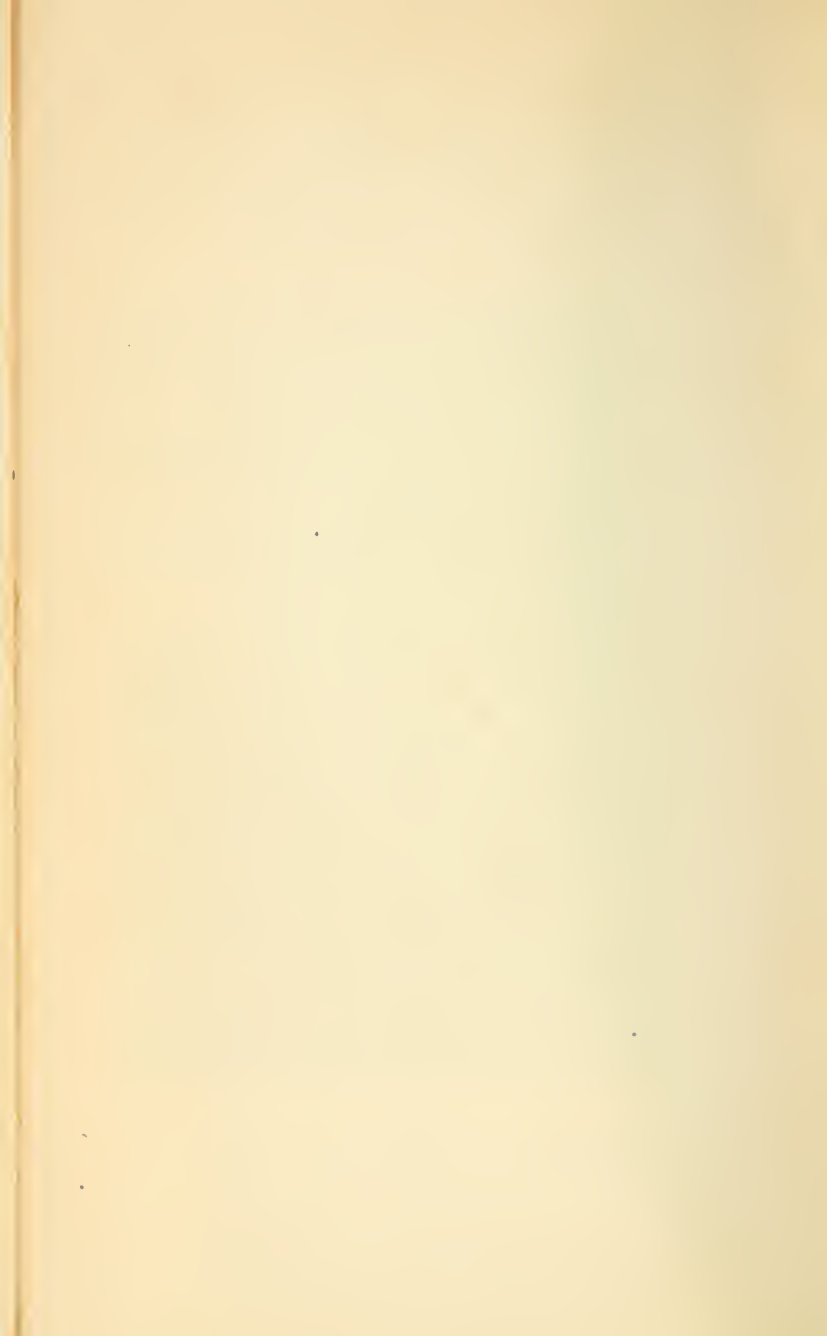
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PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNION

OF SOUTH AFRICA

SOLDIER, STATESMAN, & SEER

WITH THE AUTHOR'S

HOMAGE



## PREFACE

THIS miscellaneous volume is composed of three sections. The first twelve poems were written in 1913, and printed privately by Mr. Hornby in 1914.

The last of these poems proved to be a "war poem," and on that follow eighteen pieces which were called forth on occasion during the War, the last being a broadsheet on the surrender of the German ships. All of these verses appeared in some journal or serial. There were a few others, but they are not included in this collection, either because they are lost, or because they show decidedly inferior claims to salvage.

The last six poems or sonnets are of various dates.

R. B.



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## OCTOBER.

APRIL adance in play  
met with his lover May  
where she came garlanded.  
The blossoming boughs o'erhead  
were thrill'd to bursting by  
the dazzle from the sky  
and the wild music there  
that shook the odorous air.

Each moment some new birth  
hasten'd to deck the earth  
in the gay sunbeams.  
Between their kisses dreams :  
And dream and kiss were rife  
with laughter of mortal life.

But this late day of golden fall  
is still as a picture upon a wall  
or a poem in a book lying open unread.  
Or whatever else is shrined  
when the Virgin hath vanishèd:  
Footsteps of eternal Mind  
on the path of the dead.

## THE FLOWERING TREE.

WHAT Fairy fann'd my dreams  
while I slept in the sun?  
As if a flowering tree  
were standing over me:  
Its young stem strong and lithe  
went branching overhead  
And willow sprays around  
fell tasseling to the ground  
All with wild blossom gay  
as is the cherry in May  
When her fresh flaunt of leaf  
gives crowns of golden green.

The sunlight was enmesh'd  
in the shifting splendour  
And I saw through on high  
to soft lakes of blue sky:  
Ne'er was mortal slumber  
so lapt in luxury.

## THE FLOWERING TREE

Rather—Endymion—  
    would I sleep in the sun  
Neath the trees divinely  
    with day's azure above  
When my love of Beauty  
    is met by beauty's love.

So I slept enchanted  
    under my loving tree  
Till from his late resting  
    the sweet songster of night  
Rousing awaken'd me :  
    Then ! this—the bird's note—  
Was the voice of thy throat  
    which thou gav'st me to kiss.

## NOEL : CHRISTMAS EVE, 1913.

*Pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.*

A FROSTY Christmas Eve  
when the stars were shining  
Fared I forth alone  
where westward falls the hill,  
And from many a village  
in the water'd valley  
Distant music reach'd me  
peals of bells aringing :  
The constellated sounds  
ran sprinkling on earth's floor  
As the dark vault above  
with stars was spangled o'er.

Then sped my thought to keep  
that first Christmas of all  
When the shepherds watching  
by their folds ere the dawn  
Heard music in the fields  
and marveling could not tell  
Whether it were angels  
or the bright stars singing.

NOEL : CHRISTMAS EVE, 1913

Now blessed be the tow'rs  
that crown England so fair  
That stand up strong in prayer  
unto God for our souls ;  
Blessed be their founders  
( said I ) an' our country folk  
Who are ringing for Christ  
in the belfries to-night  
With arms lifted to clutch  
the rattling ropes that race  
Into the dark above  
and the mad romping din.

But to me heard afar  
it was starry music  
Angels' song, comforting  
as the comfort of Christ  
When he spake tenderly  
to his sorrowful flock :  
The old words came to me  
by the riches of time  
Mellow'd and transfigured  
as I stood on the hill  
Heark'ning in the aspect  
of th' eternal silence.

## IN DER FREMDE.

AH ! wild-hearted wand'rer  
far in the world away  
Restless nor knowest why  
only thou canst not stay  
And now turnest trembling  
hearing the wind to sigh :  
'Twas thy lover calling  
whom thou didst leave forby.

So faint and yet so far  
so far and yet so fain—  
“ Return belov'd to me ”  
but thou must onward strain :  
Thy trembling is in vain  
as thy wand'ring shall be.  
What so well thou lovest  
thou nevermore shalt see.

## THE PHILOSOPHER AND HIS MISTRESS.

WE watch'd the wintry moon  
Suffer her full eclipse  
Riding at night's high noon  
Beyond the earth's ellipse.

The conquering shadow quell'd  
Her splendour in its robe :  
And darkling we beheld  
A dim and lurid globe ;

Yet felt thereat no dread,  
Nor waited we to see  
The sullen dragon fled,  
The heav'nly Queen go free.

So if my heart of pain  
One hour o'ershadow thine,  
I fear for thee no stain,  
Thou wilt come forth and shine :

And far my sorrowing shade  
Will slip to empty space  
Invisible, but made  
Happier for that embrace.

## NARCISSUS.

ALMIGHTY wondrous everlasting  
Whether in a cradle of astral whirlfire  
Or globed in a piercing star thou slumb'rest  
    The impassive body of God:  
'Thou deep i' the core of earth—Almighty!—  
From numbing stress and gloom profound  
Madest escape in life desirous  
    To embroider her thin-spun robe.

'Twas down in a wood—they tell—  
In a running water thou sawest thyself  
Or leaning over a pool: The sedges  
    Were twinn'd at the mirror's brim  
The sky was there and the trees—Almighty!—  
A bird of a bird and white clouds floating  
And seeing thou knewest thine own image  
    To love it beyond all else.

Then wondering didst thou speak  
Of beauty and wisdom of art and worship  
Didst build the fanes of Zeus and Apollo  
    The high cathedrals of Christ :



## NARCISSUS

All that we love is thine—Almighty !—  
Heart-felt music and lyric song  
Language the eager grasp of knowledge  
All that we think is thine.

But whence?—Beauteous everlasting !—  
Whence and whither? Hast thou mistaken?  
Or dost forget? Look again ! Thou seest  
A shadow and not thyself.

## OUR LADY.

### I.

GODDESS azure-mantled and aureoled  
That standing barefoot upon the moon  
Or throned as a Queen of the earth  
Tranquilly smilest to hold  
The Child-god in thine arms,  
Whence thy glory? Art not she  
The country maiden of Galilee  
Simple in dowerless poverty  
Who from humble cradle to grave  
Hadst no thought of this wonder?

When to man dull of heart  
Dawn'd at length graciously  
Thy might of Motherhood  
'The starry 'Truth beam'd on his home;  
Then with insight exalted he gave thee  
'The trappings—Lady—wherewith his art  
Delighteth to picture his spirit to sense  
And that grace is immortal.

## OUR LADY

Fount of creative Love  
Mother of the Word eternal  
Atoning man with God :  
Who set thee apart as a garden enclosed  
From Nature's all-producing wilds  
To rear the richest fruit o' the Life  
Ever continuing out from Him  
Urgent since the beginning.

## II.

BEHOLD ! Man setteth thine image in the  
height of Heaven  
And hallowing his untemper'd love  
Crowneth and throneth thee ador'd  
(Tranquilly joyous to hold  
The man-child in thine arms)  
God-like apart from conflict to save thee  
To guard thy weak caressive beauty  
With incontaminate jewels of soul  
Courage, patience, and self-devotion :  
All this glory he gave thee.

Secret and slow is Nature  
Imperceptibly moving  
With surely determinate aim :  
To woman it fell to be early in prime

## OUR LADY

Ready to labour, mould, and cherish  
The delicate head of all Production  
The wistful late-maturing boy  
Who made Knowing of Being.

Therefore art thou ador'd  
Mother of God in man  
Naturing nurse of power :  
They who adore not thee shall perish  
But thou shalt keep thy path of joy  
Envied of Angels because the All-father  
Call'd thee to mother his nascent Word  
And complete the creation.

## THE CURFEW TOWER.

THRO' innocent eyes at the world awond'ring  
Nothing spake to me more superbly  
Than the round bastion of Windsor's wall

That warding the Castle's southern angle  
An old inheritor of Norman prowess  
Was call'd by the folk the Curfew Tow'r.

Above the masonry's rugged courses  
A turreted clock of Caroline fashion  
Told time to the town in black and gold.

It charmed the hearts of Henry's scholars  
As kingly a mentor of English story  
As Homer's poem is of Ilion :

Nor e'er in the landscape look'd it fairer  
Than when we saw its white bulk halo'd  
In a lattice of slender scaffoldings.

## THE CURFEW TOWER

Month by month on the airy platforms  
Workmen labour'd hacking and hoisting  
Till again the tower was stript to the sun :

The old tow'r ? Nay a new tow'r stood there  
From footing to battlemented skyline  
And topt with a cap the slice of a cone

Archæologic and counterfeited  
The smoothest thing in all the high-street  
As Eton scholars to-day may see :

They—wherever else they find their wonder  
And feed their boyhood on Time's enchantment—  
See never the Tow'r that spoke to me.

## FLYCATCHERS.

SWEET pretty fledgelings, perched on the rail arow,  
Expectantly happy, where ye can watch below  
Your parents a-hunting i' the meadow grasses  
All the gay morning to feed you with flies ;

Ye recall me a time sixty summers ago,  
When, a young chubby chap, I sat just so  
With others on a school-form rank'd in a row,  
Not less eager and hungry than you, I trow,  
With intelligences agape and eyes aglow,  
While an authoritative old wise-acre  
Stood over us and from a desk fed us with flies.

Dead flies—such as litter the library south-window,  
That buzzed at the panes until they fell stiff-baked on  
the sill,  
Or are roll'd up asleep i' the blinds at sunrise,  
Or wafer'd flat in a shrunken folio.

A dry biped he was, nurtured likewise  
On skins and skeletons, stale from top to toe  
With all manner of rubbish and all manner of lies.

## GHOSTS.

MAZING around my mind like moths at a shaded candle,  
In my heart like lost bats in a cave fluttering,  
Mock ye the charm whereby I thought reverently to  
lay you,  
When to the wall I nail'd your reticent effigys ?

*Ἐρώσιον ἄχθος ἀρούρης.*

WHO goes there ? God knows. I'm nobody. How should  
I answer ?

Can't jump over a gate nor run across the meadow.  
I'm but an old whitebeard of inane identity. Pass on !  
What's left of me to-day will very soon be nothing.



## HELL AND HATE.

Two demons thrust their arms out over the world,  
Hell with a ruddy torch of fire,  
And Hate with gasping mouth,  
Striving to seize two children fair  
Who play'd on the upper curve of the Earth.

Their shapes were vast as the thoughts of man,  
But the Earth was small  
As the moon's rim appeareth  
Scann'd through an optic glass.

The younger child stood erect on the Earth  
As a charioteer in a car  
Or a dancer with arm upraised ;  
Her whole form—barely clad  
From feet to golden head—  
Leapt brightly against the uttermost azure,  
Whereon the stars were splashes of light  
Dazed in the gulping beds of space.

## HELL AND HATE

The elder might have been stell'd to show  
The lady who led my boyish love ;  
But her face was graver than e'er to me  
    When I look'd in her eyes long ago,  
    And the hair on her shoulders fal'n  
    Nested its luminous brown  
    I' the downy spring of her wings :  
Her figure aneath was screen'd by the Earth,  
    Whereoff—so small that was  
    No footing for her could be—  
    She appeared to be sailing free  
I' the glide and poise of her flight.

'Then knew I the Angel Faith,  
Who was guarding human Love.

Happy were both, of peaceful mien,  
Contented as mankind longeth to be,  
    Not merry as children are ;  
And show'd no fear of the Fiends' pursuit,  
As ever those demons clutched in vain ;  
And I, who had fear'd awhile to see  
Such gentleness in such jeopardy,  
Lost fear myself ; for I saw the foes  
Were slipping aback and had no hold  
On the round Earth that sped its course.

## HELL AND HATE

The painted figures never could move,  
But the artist's mind was there :  
The longer I look'd the more I knew  
'They were falling, falling away' below  
To the darkness out of sight.

*December 16, 1913.*

“WAKE UP, ENGLAND!”\*

THOU careless, awake !  
Thou peacemaker, fight !  
Stand England for honour  
And God guard the Right !

Thy mirth lay aside,  
Thy cavil and play ;  
The fiend is upon thee  
And grave is the day.

\* \* \*

Through fire, air and water  
Thy trial must be ;  
But they that love life best  
Die gladly for thee.

\* \* \*

Much suffering shall cleanse thee  
But thou through the flood  
Shalt win to salvation,  
To beauty through blood.

\* See notes at end of volume.

“ WAKE UP, ENGLAND ! ”

Up, careless, awake !

Ye peacemakers, fight !

Stand England for honour,

And God guard the Right !

*August, 1914.*

## LORD KITCHENER.

UNFLINCHING hero, watchful to foresee  
And face thy country's peril wheresoe'er,  
Directing war and peace with equal care,  
Till by long toil ennobled thou wert he  
Whom England call'd and bade "Set my arm  
free

To obey my will and save my honour fair"—  
What day the foe presumed on her despair  
And she herself had trust in none but thee :

Among Herculean deeds the miracle  
That mass'd the labour of ten years in one  
Shall be thy monument. Thy work is done  
Ere we could thank thee ; and the high sea-swell  
Surgeth unheeding where thy proud ship fell  
By the lone Orkneys, at the set of sun.

ODE ON THE TERCENTENARY  
COMMEMORATION OF SHAKESPEARE,  
1916.

KIND dove-wing'd Peace, for whose green olive-crown  
The noblest kings would give their diadems,  
Mother who hast ruled our home so long,  
How suddenly art thou fled !  
Leaving our cities astir with war ;  
And yet on the fair fields deserted  
Lingerest, wherever the gaudy seasons  
Deck with excessive splendour  
The sorrow-stricken year,  
Where cornlands bask and high elms rustle gently,  
And still the unweeting birds sing on by brae and bourn.

The trumpet blareth and calleth the true to be stern  
Be then thy soft reposeful music dumb ;  
Yet shall thy lovers awhile give ear  
—'Tho' in war's garb they come—  
To the praise of England's gentlest son ;  
Whom when she bore the Muses lov'd  
Above the best of eldest honour

## SHAKESPEARE ODE

—Yea, save one without peer—  
And by great Homer set,  
Not to impugn his undisputed throne,  
The myriad-hearted by the mighty-hearted one.

For God of His gifts pour'd on him a full measure,  
And gave him to know Nature and the ways of men :  
To dower with inexhaustible treasure  
A world-conquering speech,  
Which surg'd as a river high-descended  
That gathering tributaries of many lands  
Rolls through the plain a bounteous flood,  
Picturing towers and temples  
And ruin of bygone times,  
And floateth the ships deep-laden with merchandise  
Out on the windy seas to traffic in foreign climes.

Thee SHAKESPEARE to-day we honour ; and evermore,  
Since England bore thee, the master of human song,  
Thy folk are we, children of thee,  
Who knitting in one her realm  
And strengthening with pride her sea-borne clans,  
Scorn'st in the grave the bruize of death.  
All thy later-laurel'd choir  
Laud thee in thy world-shrine :  
London's laughter is thine ;  
One with thee is our temper in melancholy or might,  
And in thy book Great-Britain's rule readeth her right.



## SHAKESPEARE ODE

Her chains are chains of Freedom, and her bright arms  
Honour Justice and Truth and Love to man.

Though first from a pirate ancestry

She took her home on the wave,

Her gentler spirit arose disdainful,

And smiting the fetters of slavery

Made the high seaways safe and free,

In wisdom bidding aloud

To world-wide brotherhood,

Till her flag was hail'd as the ensign of Liberty,

And the boom of her guns went round the earth in salvos  
of peace.

And thou, when Nature bow'd her mastering hand

To borrow an ecstasy of man's art from thee,

Thou her poet secure as she

Of the shows of eternity,

Didst never fear thy work should fall

To fashion's craze nor pedant's folly

Nor devastator whose arrogant arms

Murder and maim mankind ;

Who when in scorn of grace

He hath batter'd and burn'd some loveliest dearest  
shrine,

Laugheth in ire and boasteth aloud his brazen god.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

## SHAKESPEARE ODE

I SAW the Angel of Earth from strife aloof  
Mounting the heavenly stair with Time on high,  
Growing ever younger in the brightening air  
Of the everlasting dawn :  
It was not terror in his eyes nor wonder,  
That glance of the intimate exaltation  
Which lieth as Power under all Being,  
And broodeth in Thought above,  
As a bird wingeth over the ocean,  
Whether indolently the heavy water sleepeth  
Or is dash'd in a million waves, chafing or lightly  
laughing.

I hear his voice in the music of lamentation,  
In echoing chant and cadenced litany,  
In country song and pastoral piping  
And silvery dances of mirth :  
And oft, as the eyes of a lion in the brake,  
His presence hath startled me,  
In austere shapes of beauty lurking,  
Beautiful for Beauty's sake ;  
As a lonely blade of life  
Ariseth to flower whensoever the unseen Will  
Stirreth with kindling aim the dark fecundity of Being.

Man knoweth but as in a dream of his own desire  
The thing that is good for man, and he dreameth well :

## SHAKESPEARE ODE

But the lot of the gentle heart is hard  
That is cast in an epoch of life,  
When evil is knotted and demons fight,  
Who know not, they, that the lowest lot  
Is treachery hate and trust in sin  
And perseverance in ill,  
Doom'd to oblivious Hell,  
To pass with the shames unspoken of men away,  
Wash'd out with their tombs by the grey unpitied  
tears of Heaven.

But ye, dear Youth, who lightly in the day of fury  
Put on England's glory as a common coat,  
And in your stature of masking grace  
Stood forth warriors complete,  
No praise o'ershadoweth yours to-day,  
Walking out of the home of love  
To match the deeds of all the dead.—  
Alas ! alas ! fair Peace,  
These were thy blossoming roses.  
Look on thy shame, fair Peace, thy tearful shame !  
Turn to thine isle, fair Peace ; return thou and guard it  
well !

## THE CHIVALRY OF THE SEA.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF CHARLES FISHER, LATE  
STUDENT OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD, LOST  
IN THE "INVINCIBLE."

OVER the warring waters, beneath the wandering skies,  
The heart of Britain roameth, the Chivalry of the sea,  
Where Spring never bringeth a flower, nor bird singeth  
in a tree ;

Far, afar, O beloved, beyond the sight of our eyes,  
Over the warring waters, beneath the stormy skies.

Staunch and valiant-hearted, to whom our toil were  
play,  
Ye man with armour'd patience the bulwarks night and  
day,

Or on your iron coursers plough shuddering through the  
Bay,

Or neath the deluge drive the skirmishing sharks of war :  
Venturous boys who leapt on the pinnace and row'd  
from shore,

A mother's tear in the eye, a swift farewell to say,  
And a great glory at heart that none can take away.

## THE CHIVALRY OF THE SEA

Seldom is your home-coming ; for aye your pennon flies  
In unrecorded exploits on the tumultuous wave ;  
Till, in the storm of battle, fast-thundering upon the foe,  
Ye add your kindred names to the heroes of long-ago,  
And mid the blasting wrack, in the glad sudden death  
    of the brave,

Ye are gone to return no more.—Idly our tears arise ;  
Too proud for praise as ye lie in your unvisited grave,  
The wide-warring water, under the starry skies.

## FOR "PAGES INÉDITES," ETC.

*April, 1916.*

By our dear sons' graves, fair France, thou'rt now to us,  
    endear'd ;  
    Since no more as of old stand th' English against thee  
        in fight,  
But rallying to defend thee they die guarding thy  
    beauty  
From blind envious Hate and Perfidy leagued with  
    Might.

## GHELUVELT.

EPITAPH ON THE WORCESTERS. OCTOBER 31, 1914.

Askest thou of these graves? They'll tell thee,  
    O stranger, in England  
How we Worcesters lie where we redeem'd the battle.

## THE WEST FRONT.

AN ENGLISH MOTHER, ON LOOKING INTO MASEFIELD'S  
"OLD FRONT LINE."

No country know I so well  
as this landscape of hell.  
Why bring you to my pain  
these shadow'd effigys  
Of barb'd wire, riven trees,  
the corpse-strewn blasted plain?

And the names—Hebuterne  
Bethune and La Bassée—  
I have nothing to learn—  
Contalmaison, Boisselle,  
And one where night and day  
my heart would pray and dwell;

A desert sanctuary,  
where in holy vigil  
Year-long I have held my faith  
against th' imaginings  
Of horror and agony  
in an ordeal above

## THE WEST FRONT

The tears of suffering  
and took aid of angels :  
This was the temple of God :  
no mortuary of kings  
Ever gathered the spoils  
of such chivalry and love :

No pilgrim shrine soe'er  
hath assembled such prayer—  
With rich incense-wafted  
ritual and requiem  
Not beauteous batter'd Rheims  
nor lorn Jerusalem.



## TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*April, 1917.*

BROTHERS in blood ! They who this wrong began  
To wreck our commonwealth, will rue the day  
When first they challenged freemen to the fray,  
And with the Briton dared the American.

Now are we pledged to win the Rights of man ;  
Labour and justice now shall have their way,  
And in a League of Peace—God grant we may—  
Transform the earth, not patch up the old plan.

Sure is our hope since he, who led your nation,  
Spake for mankind ; and ye arose in awe  
Of that high call to work the world's salvation ;

Clearing your minds of all estranging blindness  
In the vision of Beauty, and the Spirit's law,  
Freedom and Honour and sweet Loving-kindness.

## TRAFALGAR SQUARE

*September, 1917.*

Fool that I was : my heart was sore,  
Yea sick for the myriad wounded men,  
The main'd in the war : I had grief for each one :  
And I came in the gay September sun  
To the open smile of Trafalgar Square ;  
Where many a lad with a limb fordone  
Loll'd by the lion-guarded column  
That holdeth Nelson statued thereon  
Upright in the air.

The Parliament towers and the Abbey towers,  
The white Horseguards and grey Whitehall,  
He looketh on all,  
Past Somerset House and the river's bend  
To the pillar'd dome of St. Paul,  
That slumbers confessing God's solemn blessing  
On England's glory, to keep it ours—  
While children true her prowess renew  
And throng from the ends of the earth to defend  
Freedom and honour—till Earth shall end.

## TRAFALGAR SQUARE

The gentle unjealous Shakespeare, I trow,  
In his country tomb of peaceful fame,  
Must feel exiled from life and glow  
If he think of this man with his warrior claim,  
Who looketh o'er London as if 'twere his own,  
As he standeth in stone, aloft and alone,  
Sailing the sky with one arm and one eye.

## CHRISTMAS EVE, 1917

MANY happy returns, sweet Babe, of the day !  
Didst not thou sow good seed in the world, thy field ?  
Can'st thou to save the poor ? Thy poor yet pine.  
'Thousands to-day suffer death-pangs like thine ;  
Our jewels of life are spilt on the ground as dross :  
'Ten thousand mothers stand beneath the cross.  
*Peace to men of goodwill* was the angels' song :  
Now there is fiercer war, worse filth and wrong.  
If thou didst sow good seed, is this the yield ?  
Shall not thy folk be quell'd in dead dismay ?

Nay, with a larger hope we are fed and heal'd  
'Than e'er was reveal'd to the saints who died so strong ;  
For while men slept the seed had quicken'd unseen.  
England is as a field whereon the corn is green.

Of trial and dark tribulation this vision is born—  
Britain as a field green with the springing corn.  
While we slumber'd the seed was growing unseen.  
Happy returns of the day, dear Babe, we say.

## CHRISTMAS EVE, 1917

ENGLAND has buried her sins with her fathers' bones.  
Thou shalt be throned on the ruin of kingly thrones.  
'The wish of thine heart is rooted in carnal mind ;  
For good seed didst thou sow in the world thy field :  
It shall ripen in gold and harvest an hundredfold.  
Peace shall come as a flood upon all mankind ;  
Love shall comfort and succour the poor that are pined.

Wherever our gentle children are wander'd and sped,  
Simple apostles thine of the world to come,  
They carried the living seed of the living Bread.  
The angel-song and the gospel of Christendom,  
'That while the nation slept was springing unseen.

So tho' we be sorely stricken we feel no dread :  
Our thousand sons suffer death-pangs like thine :  
It shall ripen in gold and harvest an hundredfold :  
Peace and Love shall hallow our care and teen,  
Shall bind in fellowship all the folk of the earth  
To kneel at thy cradle, Babe, and bless thy birth.

Ring we the bells up and down in country and town,  
And keep the old feast unholpen of preacher or priest,  
Wishing thee happy returns, and thy Mother May,  
Ever happier and happier returns, dear CHRIST, of thy day !

## TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*August, 1918.*

SEE England's stalwart daughter, who made emprise  
'Gainst her own mother, freeborn of the free,  
Who slew her sons for her slaves' liberty,  
See for mankind her majesty arise!  
From her new world her unattainted eyes  
Espy deliverance, and her bold decree  
Speaks for Great Britain's wide confederacy:  
The folk shall rule, if only they be wise.

Ambition, hate, revenge, the secret sway  
Of priest and kingcraft shall be done away  
By faith in beauty, chivalry and good.  
One God made all, and will all wrongs forgive  
Save their hell-heart who stab man's hope to live  
In mutual freedom, peace and brotherhood.

## OUR PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

*October, 1918.*

PRISONERS to a foe inhuman, Oh ! but our hearts rebel :  
Defenceless victims ye are, in claws of spite a prey,  
Conquering your torturers, enduring night and day  
Malice, year-long drawn out your noble spirits to quell.  
Fearsomer than death this rack they ranged, and  
reckon'd well

'Twould harrow our homes, and plied, such devilish aim  
had they,  
That England roused to rage should wrong with wrong  
repay,  
And smirch her envied honour in deeds unspeakable.

Nor trouble we just Heaven that quick revenge be done  
On Satan's chamberlains highseated in Berlin ;  
Their reek floats round the world on all lands 'neath  
the sun :

Tho' in craven Germany was no man found, not one  
With spirit enough to cry Shame !—Nay, but on  
such sin

Follows Perdition eternal . . . and it has begun.

## HARVEST-HOME

VERSES TO THE AMERICANS ON THEIR THANKSGIVING DAY,  
CELEBRATED IN ENGLAND NOVEMBER 28, 1918.

A TOAST for West and East  
Drink on this Thursday feast  
Last in November,  
The year when Albion's lands  
Across the sea join hands—  
Drink and remember !

Nineteen-eighteen fulfill'd  
The kindly purpose will'd  
By the Ever-living,  
When first in hope upstay'd  
The Pilgrim Fathers made  
Harvest thanksgiving.

And since the seed bore fruit,  
Which they went forth to root  
In the wildernesses,  
Ye now return to find  
The Rose that they resigned  
With their distresses.



## HARVEST-HOME

'Twas when the wide world o'er,  
Whatever peaceful shore  
    Britons inherit,  
Britons claim'd right of birth,  
And fought hell in the mirth  
    Of Shakespeare's spirit.

Then your true heart was stirr'd,  
Your arm raised, and your word  
    Went forth, forecasting  
That the great war should cease  
In British bonds of peace,  
    Peace everlasting.

*The good God bless this day,  
And we for ever and aye  
    Keep our love living,  
Till all men 'neath heaven's dome  
Sing Freedom's Harvest-home  
    In one Thanksgiving!*

## TO AUSTRALIA

WITH THE WOUNDED AND THE SURVIVORS OF 1914  
RETURNING HOME IN AUTUMN, 1918.

A LOVING message at Christmastide,  
Sent round the world to the underside  
A-sail in the ship that across the foam  
Carries the wounded Aussies home,  
Who rallied at War's far-thundering call,  
When England stood with her back to the wall,  
To fight for Freedom, that ne'er shall die  
So long as on earth the old flag fly.

O hearts so loving, eager and bold—  
Whose praise hath claim to be writ on the sky  
In letters of gold, of fire and gold —  
Never shall prouder tale be told,  
Than how ye fought as the knights of old  
“Against the heathen in Turkye  
In Flanders Artois and Picardie :”  
But above all triumph that else ye have won  
This is the goodliest deed ye have done,  
To have seal'd with blood in a desperate day  
The love-bond that binds us for ever and aye.

*September, 1918.*

## THE EXCELLENT WAY

MAN's mind that hath this earth for home  
Hath too its far-spread starry dome  
Where thought is lost in going free,  
Prison'd but by infinity.  
He first in slumbrous babyhood  
Took conscience of his heavenly good ;  
Then with his sins grown up to youth  
Wept at the vision of God's truth.

Soon in his heart new hopes awoke  
As poet sang or prophet spoke :  
Temples arose and stone he taught  
To stand agaze in trancèd thought :  
He won the trembling air to tell  
Of far passions ineffable,  
Feeding the hungry things of sense  
With instincts of omniscience,  
Immortal modes that should abide  
Cherish'd by love and pious pride,  
That unborn children might inherit  
The triumph of his holy spirit,

## THE EXCELLENT WAY

Outbidding Nature, to entice  
Her soul from her own Paradise,  
'Till her wild face had fallen to shame  
Had he not praised her in God's name.

Alas ! poor man, what blockish curse  
Would violate thy universe,  
'To enchain thy freedom and entomb  
Thy pleasance in devouring gloom ?  
Behold thy savage foes of yore  
With woes of pestilence and war,  
Siva and Moloch, Odin and 'Thor,  
Rise from their graves to greet amain  
The deeds that give them life again.

Poor man, sunk deeper than thy slime  
In blood and hate, in terror and crime,  
'Thou who wert lifted on the wings  
Of thy desire, the king of kings,  
In promise beyond ken sublime :  
O thou man-soul, who mightest climb  
'To heavenly happiness, whereof  
Thine easy path were Mirth and Love !

*October, 1918.*

## ENGLAND TO INDIA

*Christmas, 1913.*

BEAUTIFUL is man's home : how fair,  
Wrapt in her robe of azurous air,  
The Earth thro' stress of ice and fire  
Came on the path of God's desire,  
Redeeming Chaos, to compose  
Exquisite forms of lily and rose,  
With every creature a design  
Of loveliness or craft divine  
Searchable and unsearchable,  
And each insect a miracle !

Truth is as Beauty unconfined :  
Various as Nature is man's Mind :  
Each race and tribe is as a flower  
Set in God's garden with its dower  
Of special instinct ; and man's grace  
Compact of all must all embrace.  
China and Ind, Hellas or France,  
Each hath its own inheritance ;

## ENGLAND TO INDIA

And each to Truth's rich market brings  
Its bright divine imaginings,  
In rival tribute to surprise  
The world with native merchandise.

Nor least in worth nor last in years  
Of artists, poets, saints and seers,  
England, in her far northern sea,  
Fashion'd the jewel of Liberty,  
Fetch'd from the shore of Palestine  
( Land of the Lily and mystic Vine ).  
Where once in the everlasting dawn  
Christ's Love-star flamed, that heavenly sign  
Whereto all nations shall be drawn,  
Unfabled Magi, and uplift  
Each to Love's cradle his own gift.

Thou who canst dream and understand,  
Dost thou not dream for thine own land  
This dream of Truth, and contemplate  
That happier world, Love's free Estate ?

Say, didst thou dream, O Sister fair,  
How hand in hand we entered there ?

## BRITANNIA VICTRIX

CARELESS wast thou in thy pride,  
Queen of seas and countries wide,  
Glorying on thy peaceful throne :—  
Can thy love thy sins atone ?  
What shall dreams of glory serve,  
If thy sloth thy doom deserve,  
When the strong relentless foe  
Storm thy gates to lay thee low ?

Careless, ah ! he saw thee leap  
Mighty from thy startled sleep,  
Heard afar thy challenge ring :  
'Twas the world's awakening.

Welcome to thy children all  
Rallying to thee without call  
Oversea, the sportive sons  
From thy vast dominions !  
Stern in onset or defence,  
Terrible in their confidence.

## BRITANNIA VICTRIX

Dauntless wast thou, fair goddess,  
'Neath the cloud of thy distress ;  
Fierce and mirthful wast thou seen  
In thy toil and in thy teen ;  
While the nations looked to thee,  
Spent in worldwide agony.

Oft, throughout that long ordeal  
Dark with horror-stricken duty,  
Nature on thy heart would steal  
Beckoning thee with heavenly beauty,  
Heightening ever on thine isle  
All her seasons' tranquil smile ;  
Till thy soul anew converted,  
Roaming o'er the fields deserted,  
By thy sorrow sanctified,  
Found a place wherein to hide.

Soon fresh beauty lit thy face,  
Then thou stood'st in Heaven's high grace :  
Sudden in air on land and sea  
Swell'd the voice of victory.

Now when jubilant bells resound  
And thy sons come laurel-crown'd,  
After all thy years of woe  
Thou no longer canst forgo,  
Now thy tears are loos'd to flow.



## BRITANNIA VICTRIX

Land, dear land, whose sea-built shore  
Nurseth warriors evermore,  
Land, whence Freedom far and lone  
Round the earth her speech has thrown  
Like a planet's luminous zone,—  
In thy strength and calm defiance  
Hold mankind in love's alliance !

Beauteous art thou, but the foes  
Of thy beauty are not those  
Who lie tangled and dismay'd ;  
Fearless one, be yet afraid  
Lest thyself thyself condemn  
In the wrong that ruin'd them.

God, who chose thee and upraised  
'Mong the folk ( His name be praised ! ),  
Proved thee then by chastisement  
Worthy of His high intent,  
Who, because thou could'st endure,  
Saved thee free and purged thee pure,  
Won thee thus His grace to win,  
For thy love forgave thy sin,  
For thy truth forgave thy pride,  
Queen of seas and countries wide,—  
He who led thee still will guide.

## BRITANNIA VICTRIX

Hark ! thy sons, those spirits fresh  
Dearly housed in dazzling flesh,  
'Thy full brightening buds of strength,  
Ere their day had any length  
Crush'd, and fallen in torment sorest,  
Hark ! the sons whom thou deplorest  
Call— I hear one call ; he saith :  
“ Mother, weep not for my death :  
’Twas to guard our home from hell,  
’Twas to make thy joy I fell  
Praising God, and all is well.  
What if now thy heart should quail  
And in peace our victory fail !  
If low greed in guise of right  
Should consume thy gather'd might,  
And thy power mankind to save  
Fall and perish on our grave !  
On my grave, whose legend be  
*Fought with the brave and joyfully  
Died in faith of victory.*  
Follow on the way we won !  
Thou hast found, not lost thy son.”

November 23, 1918.

## DER TAG : NELSON AND BEATTY

A BROADSHEET.

### 1.

No doubt 'twas a truly Christian sight  
When the German ships came out of the Bight,  
But it can't be said it was much of a fight  
That grey November morning ;  
The wonderful day, the great Der Tag,  
Which Prussians had vow'd with unmannerly brag  
Should see Old England lower her flag  
Some grey November morning.

### 2.

The spirit of Nelson, that haunts the Fleet,  
Had come whereabouts the ships must meet,  
But he fear'd there was some decoy or cheat  
That grey November morning,  
When the enemy led by a British scout  
Stole 'twixt our lines . . . and never a shout  
Or a signal ; and never a gun spoke out  
That grey November morning.

## DER TAG

### 3.

So he shaped his course to the Admiral's ship,  
Where Beatty stood with hand on hip  
Impassive, nor ever moved his lip  
    'That grey November morning ;  
And touching his shoulder he said : " My mate,  
Am I come too soon or am I too late ?  
Is it friendly manœuvres or pageant of State  
    'This grey November morning ? "

### 4.

'Then Beatty said : " As Admiral here  
In the name of the King I bid you good cheer :  
It's not my fault that it looks so queer  
    'This grey November morning ;  
But there come the enemy all in queues ;  
They can fight well enough if only they choose ;  
Small blame to me if the fools refuse,  
    'This grey November morning.

### 5.

" That's Admiral Reuter, surrendering nine  
Great Dreadnoughts, all first-rates of the line ;  
Beyond, in the haze that veils the brine  
    'This grey November morning,

## DER TAG

Loom five heavy Cruisers, and light ones four,  
With a tail of Destroyers, fifty or more,  
Each squadron under its Commodore,  
This grey November morning.

### 6.

“The least of all those captive queens  
Could have knock’d your whole navy to smithereens,  
And nothing said of the other machines,  
On a grey November morning,  
The aeroplanes and the submarines,  
Bombs, torpedoes, and Zeppelins,  
Their floating mines and their smoky screens,  
Of a grey November morning.

### 7.

“They’ll rage like bulls sans reason or rhyme,  
And next day, as if ’twere a pantomime,  
They walk in like cows at milking-time,  
On a grey November morning.  
We’re four years sick of the pestilent mob;  
—You’ve heard of our biblical *Battle in Gob*?—  
At times it was hardly a gentleman’s job  
Of a grey November morning.”

## DER TAG

### 8.

Then Nelson said : " God bless my soul !  
How things are changed in this age of coal ;  
For the spittle it isn't with you I'd condole

    This grey November morning.

By George ! you've netted a monstrous catch :  
You'll be able to pen the best dispatch  
That ever an Admiral wrote under hatch  
    On a grey November morning.

### 9.

" I like your looks and I like your name :  
My heart goes out to the old fleet's fame,  
And I'm pleased to find you so spry at the game

    This grey November morning.

Your ships, tho' I don't half understand  
Their build, are stouter and better mann'd  
Than anything I ever had in command  
    Of a grey November morning."

### 10.

Then Beatty spoke : " Sir ! none of my crew,  
All bravest of brave and truest of true,  
Is thinking of me so much as of you

    This grey November morning."

## DER TAG

And Nelson replied : " Well, thanks f' your chat.  
Forgive my intrusion ! I take off my hat  
And make you my bow . . . we'll leave it at that,  
This grey November morning."

## “TO BURNS”

TOAST FOR THE GREENOCK CLUB DINNER, JANUARY, 1914.

To Burns! brave Scotia's laurel'd son  
Who drove his plough on Helicon—  
Who with his Doric rhyme erewhile  
'Taught English bards to mend their style—  
And by the humour of his pen  
Fairly befool'd auld Nickie-ben . . .  
Blithe Robbie Burns! we love thee well  
Because thou wert so like thyself,  
And in full cups with festive cheer  
We toast thy fame from year to year.



## POOR CHILD

On a mournful day  
    When my heart was lonely,  
O'er and o'er my thought  
    Conned but one thing only,

Thinking how I lost  
    Wand'ring in the wild-wood  
The companion self  
    Of my careless childhood.

How, poor child, it was  
    I shall ne'er discover,  
But 'twas just when he  
    Grew to be thy lover,

With thine eyes of trust  
    And thy mirth, whereunder  
All the world's hope lay  
    In thy heart of wonder.

Now, beyond regrets  
    And faint memories of thee,  
Saddest is, poor child,  
    That I cannot love thee.

## TO PERCY BUCK

Folk alien to the Muse have hemm'd us round  
And fiends have suck'd our blood : our best delight  
Is poison'd, and the year's infective blight  
Hath made almost a silence of sweet sound.

But you, what fortune, Percy, have you found  
At Harrow ? doth fair hope your toil requite ?  
Doth beauty win her praise and truth her right,  
Or hath the good seed fal'n on stony ground ?

Ply the art ever nobly, single-soul'd  
Like Brahms, or as you ruled in Wells erewhile,  
—Nor yet the memory of that zeal is cold—  
Where lately I, who love the purer style,  
Enter'd, and felt your spirit as of old  
Beside me, listening in the chancel-aisle.

1904.

## TO HARRY ELLIS WOOLDRIDGE

Love and the Muse have left their home, now bare  
Of memorable beauty, all is gone,  
The dedicated charm of Yattendon,  
Which thou wert apt, dear Hal, to build and share.

What noble shades are flitting, who while-ere  
Haunted the ivy'd walls, where time ran on  
In sanctities of joy by reverence won,  
Music and choral grace and studies fair !

These on some kindlier field may Fate restore,  
And may the old house prosper, dispossess  
Of her whose equal it can nevermore

Hold till it crumble : O nay ! and the door  
Will moulder ere it open on a guest  
To match thee in thy wisdom and thy jest.

*October, 1905.*

## FORTUNATUS NIMIUM

I HAVE lain in the sun  
I have toil'd as I might  
I have thought as I would  
And now it is night.

My bed full of sleep  
My heart of content  
For friends that I met  
The way that I went.

I welcome fatigue  
While frenzy and care  
Like thin summer clouds  
Go melting in air.

To dream as I may  
And awake when I will  
With the song of the birds  
And the sun on the hill.

## FORTUNATUS NIMIUM

Or death—were it death—  
To what should I wake  
Who loved in my home  
All life for its sake?

What good have I wrought?  
I laugh to have learned  
That joy cannot come  
Unless it be earned;

For a happier lot  
Than God giveth me  
It never hath been  
Nor ever shall be

## DEMOCRITUS

Joy of your opulent atoms ! wouldst thou dare  
Say that Thought also of atoms self-became,  
Waving to soul as light had the eye in aim ;  
And so with things of bodily sense compare  
Those native notions that the heavens declare,  
Space and Time, Beauty and God—Praise we his  
name !—

Real ideas, that on tongues of flame  
From out mind's cooling paste leapt unaware ?

Thy spirit, Democritus, orb'd in the eterne  
Illimitable galaxy of night  
Shineth undim'd where greater splendours burn  
Of sage and poet : by their influence bright  
We are held ; and pouring from his quenchless urn  
Christ with immortal love-beams laves the height.

1919.

## NOTES

POEM 3.—As the metre or scansion of this poem was publicly discussed and wrongly analysed by some who admired its effects, it may be well to explain that it and the three other poems in similar measure, "Flowering Tree," "In der Fremde," "The West Front," are strictly syllabic verse on the model left by Milton in "Samson Agonistes"; except that his system, which depended on exclusion of extra-metrical syllables (that is, syllables which did not admit of resolution by "elision" into a disyllabic scheme) from all places but the last, still admitted them in that place, thereby forbidding inversion of the last foot. It is natural to conclude that, had he pursued his inventions, his next step would have been to get rid of this anomaly; and if that is done, the result is the new rhythms that these poems exhibit. In this sort of prosody rhyme is admitted, like alliteration, as an ornament at will; it is not needed. My four experiments are confined to the twelve-syllable verse. It is probably agreed that there are possibilities in that long six-foot line which English poetry has not fully explored.

POEM 12, "Hell and Hate."—This poem was written December 16, 1913. It is the description of a little picture hanging in my bedroom; it had been painted for me

## NOTES

as a New Year's gift more than thirty years before, and I described it partly because I never exactly knew what it meant. When the war broke out I remembered my poem and sent it to *The Times*, where it appeared in the Literary Supplement September 24, 1914.

POEM 13, "Wake up, England!"—This motto is the King's well-known call to the country in 1901 at the Guildhall.

The verses appeared in *The Times* on August 8, 1914. There were three other stanzas, which are better omitted ; and the last two lines, which were printed in capitals and ran thus,

England stands for honour,  
May God defend the right,

were purposely set out of metre. In the second stanza the words "The fiend" are what I originally wrote, and I think that the friends who persuaded me to substitute "Thy foe" will no longer wish to protest.





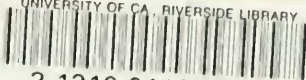


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